

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 AID-05 /084 W

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R 300440Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2038

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10416

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, TH, LA, CB, VN, CH

SUBJ: THAI DIPLOMAT'S COMMENTS ON SE ASIAN DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: MID-LEVEL THAI DIPLOMAT EXPRESSED CONCERN TO US THAT THAILAND IS NEXT AND HIGHLY VULNERABLE TARGET FOR NORTH VIETNAMESE-INSTIGATED INSURGENCY AFTER HANOI GAINS FULL DOMINANCE IN INDOCHINA. A CLOSE FRIEND OF LAO DIPLOMATS IN TOKYO, THE THAI CLAIMS LAO AMBASSADOR IN TOKYO, THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF KING SAVANG, IS FEARFUL OF RETURNING TO LAOS AND HAS INDICATED KING SAVANG ALSO WILL NOT RETURN FOLLOWING HIS TRIP TO PARIS. FINALLY, A SECRET LETTER RECEIVED FROM DOCTOR IN PHNOM PENH DESCRIBES SITUATION IN KHMER AS "MAD AND DANGEROUS." END SUMMARY.

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1. THAI EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY CHINDA ATTANAN (POLITICAL) EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL CONCERN TO EMBOFF, OVER FUTURE OF INDOCHINA AND DANGERS TO THAILAND IN NEW SITUATION IN SE ASIA. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAILAND'S STRENGTHS, HISTORICAL RESILIENCE, AND DIFFERENCES FROM CONDITIONS IN INDOCHINA STATES, CHINDA SAID THAILAND NEVERTHELESS COULD "FALL LIKE A HOUSE OF CARS" IF THOROUGHGOING SOCIAL REFORM WERE NOT UNDERTAKEN. EVEN THOUGH KUKRIT GOVERNMENT WAS ELECTED, ACCORDING TO CHINDA, CURRENT RTG REPRESENTS THE SAME THAIL ESTABLISHMENT AS DID THE THANOM REGIME. RTG HAS VERY SHORT TIME TO REFORM THAI SOCIETY AND CHINDA SEES LITTLE THAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR TO INDICATE KUKRIT HAS THE WILL OR FARSIGHTEDNESS TO MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES IN TIME.

2. GREATEST EXTERNAL THREAT TO THAILAND IS HANOI. CHINDA IS CONVINCED THAT HANOI WILL EXERCISE PRE-DOMINANT INFLUENCE IN KHMER AS IT ALREADY DOES IN LAOS. FIGHTING BETWEEN VIETNAMESE AND KHMER IS EVIDENCE OF RESISTANCE BY KHMER, BUT CHINDA BELIEVES HANOI WILL QUICKLY GAIN UPPER HAND. INDOCHINESE FEDERATION IS ONLY MATTER OF TIME. CHINDA EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT PATHET LAO SEEM WILLING TO TURN CONTROL OF LAOS OVER TO HANOI BUT ASSERTED, "THEY ARE ALREADY DOING SO." THAILAND IS NEXT TARGET FOR HANOI'S SUBVERSION AND CHINDA CLEARLY DOUBTS THAIS WILL RESIST. CHINDA READILY ADMITTED THAT PRIMARY PURPOSE OF KUKRIT'S VISIT TO CHINA WAS TO GAIN PEKING'S SUPPORT IN RESTRAINING HANOI. "THAT IS OUR ONLY HOPE," CHINDA COMMENTED.

3. TURNING TO LAOS, CHINDA NOTED THAT FIVE LAO AMBASSADORS HAVE BEEN CALLED HOME, INCLUDING H.R.H. TIAO KHAMHING, VIENTIANE'S AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN AND YOUNGER BROTHER OF KING SAVANG VATTHANA. CHINDA, WHO IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF LAO DIPLOMATS HERE, SAIDAMB TIAO PLANS TO STOP OFF IN BANGKOK ENROUTE HOME AND PERHAPS STAY THERE FOR SOME TIME TO "WAIT AND CONFIDENTIAL

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SEE" HOW SITUATION IN LAOS DEVELOPS. AMB TIAO IS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT PROSPECTS, AND HAS APPARENTLY TOLD CHINDA THAT KING SAVANG, LIKE PM PHOUMA, WILL NOT RETURN TO LAOS FROM HIS TRAVELS. FEARFUL OF DEVELOPMENTS IN LAOS, KING SAVANG WILL REMAIN IN PARIS, ACCORDING TO CHINA.

4. ASKED, CHINDA RESPONDED WITH SEEMING RELUCTANCE

BUT CERTITUDE THAT THE PGNU WANTS THE US OUT OF LAOS TOTALLY.

5. CHINDA SAID A FORMER GKR DIPLOMAT (AND FRIEND) SECRETLY RECEIVED A LETTER RECENTLY FROM HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, A DOCTOR IN A HOSPITAL IN PHNOM PENH. DOCTOR DESCRIBED SITUATION IN KHMER AS "MAD AND DANGEROUS" AND STRONGLY ADVISED HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, THE DIPLOMAT, NOT TO RETURN UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES REGARDLESS OF ANY ASSURANCE FOR HIS SAFETY HE MIGHT RECEIVED FROM GRUNK REPS. DOCTOR SAID ANYONE CONNECTED WITHFORMER REGIME WAS IN DANGER OF BEING EXECUTED. HE ALSO ADDED THAT HIGHLY TRAINED PERSONNEL SUCH AS DOCTORS, ELECTRIC POWER AND OTHER EXPERTS, HAD NOT BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE PHNOM PENH LIKE THE REST OF POPULATION BECAUSE THEIR SERVICES WERE NEEDED.

6. COMMENT: WE FIND CHINDA'S COMMENTS ON DANGERS TO THAILAND INTERESTING BECAUSE THEY ARE MARKEDLY MORE PESSIMISTIC THAN ASSESSMENTS ABOUT THAILAND'S STRENGTH MADE BY THE FONOFF AND OTHER ASEAN DIPLOMATS IN TOKYO. MORE CONFIDENT MOOD IN BANGKOK FOLLOWING PM KUKRIT'S VISIT TO PEKING (BANGKOK 14812) SEEMINGLY HAS NOT BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THAI DIPLOMATS ABROAD. WE SEE NO REASON TO DOUBT CHINDA'S REMARKS ABOUT AMBASSADOR TIAO'S PLANS BUT COMMENT ON KING'S PLANS COULD BE SPECULATION ONLY.

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